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2024 Summary of Events and Accomplishments

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- April 20, 2024—Rochester Earth Day 5K
- May 19, 2024—Frank Race Management/Run MI Cheap
- May 27, 2024—Orion Veteran’s Memorial 5k
- September 28, 2024—RCSF Hometown Hustle
- October 5, 2024—Grace Centers for Hope
- November 23—Frank Race Management

January

Manager Correll provides an update on the Bald Mountain Recreation Areas Bridge to the Paint Creek Trail. He reported that the MDNR is updating plans for their bid packet and that construction of the bridge will likely begin in late 2024 or early 2025.

Manager Correll also provided an update on the Bridge 37.1 Renovation Project. He noted that the current cost is estimated to be \$980,000 and that the Commission has secured recommendations for grants for this project that totaled to just over one million dollars.

The Commission discussed investment options and decided to keep \$50,000 in the checking account and move the remaining funds into a Government Premier Savings Account which has a higher interest rate.

February

Manager Correll provided an update about the Bridge 37.1 Renovation Project.

The Commission and Trail Manager Correll review and update goals for 2024.

Manager Correll reviewed the investment options after meeting with a representative from Flagstar Bank’s government banking department. The Commission decided to move forward in opening a savings account and maintain three months of projected expenses in the checking account. The Commission planned to discuss certificate of deposit investment options at the next meeting in March.

The Commission reviewed goals set for 2024.

March

Manager Correll shared the draft for the RFP and bid packet for the master plan. The Commission discussed the schedule and timeline for writing the upcoming master plan.

Manager Correll reported that he posted the RFP for the website redesign project. He planned to present the results at the April meeting.

The Commission discussed combining the 40th Anniversary Celebration with the Labor Day Bridge event. The Commission agreed to revisit this discussion at the April 16th meeting to get input from the 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

April

Michael Nadolski from Champion Development was present at the April meeting to discuss plans for the Paint Creek Trail Townhouses development project (Creekside Luxury Condominiums) proposed to be built on the site occupied by Solaronics. Mr. Nadolski reviewed building plans as well as plans for returning the property to its natural state. He asked for the Commission's input so that he could include it in the proposed site plan for the development.

The Commission discussed how remediation work should be conducted to ensure that the Solaronics license agreement is carried out as outlined.

Louis Carrio presents the safety brochure "A Guide to Safety & Etiquette on the Trail." The brochure included information about general safety and etiquette guidelines for users on the Paint Creek Trail. Mr. Carrio discussed printing additional copies and distributing them throughout the community.

May

The Commission held a special meeting to amend the budgeted spending for legal fees for the 2024 fiscal year and to further discuss how to address remediation in accordance with the Solaronics license agreement.

Manager Correll shared with the Commission plans for a National Trails day. He discussed that trail staff will be partnering with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail to offer a free drop in scavenger hunt event along a section of the trail. The Commission reviewed the event flyer and the family-friendly online scavenger hunt. Manager Correll also included that at this event trail safety and etiquette brochures would be distributed.

June

Joe Bruce from Vanguard Trout Unlimited updated the Commissioners on the habitat restoration work done in the Paint Creek during 2023 and their plans for continued work in the future. He

mentioned that he visited a section of the creek where the work was done and said that the log structures that were installed appear to be functioning well. He also requested a permit for Phase 4 of work to conduct a two part electro shock population study. He mentioned that the study will occur on the Paint Creek, along the trail section just North of Tienken Road. Finally, in 2025 Vanguard Trout Unlimited aims to install about 50 additional log structures as part of their habitat restoration efforts.

Manager Correll informed the Commission that the 17th Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk will take place on Monday, September 2nd. He also shared the 2024 Sponsorship Form and noted that he will send out a list of sponsors from the previous year.

Manager Correll reviewed with the Commission. The Commission found no major issues present and approved the 2023 audit report.

July

Manager Correll reported that the Rochester City Council approved the re-zoning of the Solaronics property, allowing the sale of the property from Solaronics to Champion Development Group. The Commission aims to work with Champion Development to ensure that the property is remediated in accordance with the existing license agreement between the Paint Creek Trailways Commission and Solaronics.

Manager Correll reviewed the updated master plan timeline with the Commissioners. Commissioners volunteered to join subcommittees to work on different sections of the master plan. Commissioners also reviewed and suggested revisions for the questions for the public survey.

August

Manager Correll reviewed the updated timeline for the master plan. The Commission reviewed the updated questions for the community opinion survey and discussed holding the stakeholder open house in October.

Manager Correll updated the Commission on the plan for the Labor Day Bridge Walk event to be held on September 2nd. He discussed the sponsors for the event and provided an overview of the event.

September

The Labor Day Bridge Walk event was held on Monday, September 2nd with approximately 175 participants in attendance and a dozen volunteers. Trail Manager Correll thanked Commissioners for their support and for soliciting sponsors. The event was presented by Spalding DeDecker—They kindly donated beyond what was requested. After event expenses, income for the event amounted to \$2,492.96, which increased from \$1,984.67 from 2023. The Commissioners thanked Manager Correll and Administrative Assistant Sands for their work in making the walk a success.

October

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail announced to the Commission that they have received a generous donation from the estate of Mr. Kreuzkamp in the amount of approximately \$64,500. There are no limitations for how they may use the donated funds, but it was indicated in his estate that Mr. Kreuzkamp would like the funds to be used for something that recognizes his contribution and also encourages others to make similar donations.

Chairman Sage reflected on the life of Mr. Kreuzkamp and mentioned that he spent time biking the trail and that he played an active role in the installation of the bike repair station and drinking fountain near the Tienken Road crossing.

Manager Correll provided an update on the Master Plan progress. He mentioned that there were about 400 responses to the community opinion survey and that Giffels-Webster had completed the accessibility assessment. Additionally, he noted that the stakeholder open house is tentatively to be held November 20th.

The Commission reviewed the 2025 draft budget with Manager Correll. The Commission will consider the approval of the budget at the November meeting.

Manager Correll informed the Commission that the project agreement for the MNRTF Grant regarding the Bridge 31.7 Replacement had been received.

November

Manager Correll announced that he received the Project Agreement from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for the Bridge 31.7 project.

The Commission discussed progress on updating the Master Plan. The Commission and Manager Correll also discussed the feedback from the Community Opinion Survey, Accessibility Assessment, and Stakeholder Open House.

Manager Correll reviewed the updated draft of the 2025 Budget with the Commission. The Commission will consider approval of the budget at the December meeting.

Commissioner Reiter shared with the Commission information on the Community Habitat Improvement Projects Grant (CHIP grant.) He mentioned that this is something we could apply for in 2025.

December

Manager Correll received two design concepts from IDMI for the Commission and trail staff to review.

2025 Social Media insights:

Instagram- 2,2556 Followers

Facebook- 9.3K Followers, 8.7K Likes